Indo-Sweden Co-operation

2008. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sweden have decided to accelerate the tempo of collaboration between the two countries by expanding co-operation in new areas and bringing the medium and small industries into the co-operation fold; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The need to accelerate the tempo of co-operation between Sweden and India has been emphasised during the bilateral talks between the two countries at various levels. Recently during the Indo-Swedish Joint Business Council meeting held on 13th June, 1991, in Stockholm the need for increased economic co-operation between two countries, specially in areas of industrial collaboration was once again highlighted. It was recognised by both sides that India needs sophisticated technology specially in the Small and Medium Scale Industries. A series of items that have been identified as having a good potential for collaboration include the following:—

Energy-related equipment.

Air Pollution control equipment.

Power generation, transmission & distribution.

Instruments & electronic systems for industrial processing automation.

Effluent treatment plants.

Transportation.

Material, handling equipment.

Machine Tools.

Alternative energy equipment.

Food processing and packaging.

Ship-building and port maintenance.

Aviatronics and navigation.

Medical instruments, health care equipment.

Mining and excavation.

Oil and natural gas.

Plastic recycling plant.

Machines for fibre glass products.

Automatic plastic welding machines.

Printing and quality machines.

Both Indian and Swedish sides also visualised the possibilities for third-country collaborations in areas like civil engineering and construction.

Proposal to explore Ocean Wealth

2009. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any concrete proposal to explore the rich ocean wealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government plan to offer projects to private companies to take up these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following Departments/agencies undertake projects relating to ocean wealth:

1. *Department of Ocean Development (DOD)*:

1. *Polymetallic nodules*: It is already implementing a programme for the exploration of Polymetallic Nodules at the Pioneer Area allotted by the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority in the Central Indian Ocean through the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa. This site, measuring to an area of 1,50,000 sq.km., is estimated to have 380 million tonnes of nodules containing approximately 73 million tonnes of manganese, 3.2 million tonnes of nickel, 3 million tonnes of